THE KNIGHT

VOL. V, No. 3. Issue #27. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. October-November 1982 Sample page

Reader BOYCOTTS KRAUSE S.C.W.C.

HELLO New York! L.N.A. MEETS Sat. DEC. 11, 10:30 AM

To all our friends in the New England area: due to the huge success of our August ANA meeting, we've been asked to show our slides on Lithuanian paper money at the N.Y. International Numismatic Convention held December 10-12, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, 7th Ave., between 52 and 53rd Sts., in the Sheraton Exhibit Center. Our LNA meeting will be on Saturday December 11, at 10:30 AM. Room location will be posted/announced there.

LNA Director Robert J. Douchis and ambassador Vince Alones will conduct the open meeting. You don't have to belong to the LNA to come. Learn about the exciting field of Lith. numismatics, and see some beautiful color slides as well! Douchis will also conduct a short LNA business meeting at the start, reviewing the progress of the LNA in the past year, and revealing some goals for the future.

As usual, WE HAVE SOME SURPRISES PLANNED, so COME! This Saturday meeting will give you who work during the week a chance to finally come out and meet us! Bring portions of your collections for a "show and tell" session, as well as any items for sale, trade, etc.

LNA members will recall we held our 1st meeting at the N.Y. International show 4 years ago. Regarding the show, the bourse will be open on Friday from 11am-8pm, Sat. 10-7:30, and Sunday from 11-5. We'll have a great time! See you at the LNA meeting!

NEW PATTERN PURCHASED

Another previously unreported Lithuanian pattern coin has turned up, and was purchased from dealer Karl Stephens by an LNA member recently. It is a proof-like striking, lettered-edge, rotated reverse of the LNA-12 (Y-12) 1936 5 Litai, featuring Dr. Jonas Basanavičius.



The normal circulation coin bears a lettered edge, and the reverse is not rotated. An unfinished die was apparently used to strike the obverse. Under low magnification, raised circular lines are evident on the bust. One line in hair is visible with the naked eye. Technically, this is a test striking. In 1936, the Brussels mint

(Continued on page 6)

COIN WORLD INT. EDITOR OFFERS ALTERNATIVE

The latest edition of the Standard Catalog of World Coins again has Lithuania dumped under the umbrella heading of USSR in the back, instead of the "L's" where it should be. This is despite numerous protest letters written to Krause officials about their pro-Soviet cataloging policy.

In their latest edition, Russian Czarist coins are listed under the sub-heading, "RUSSIA--Republic," but Lithuanian Republic coins are listed as "LITHUANIAN S.S.R." Inconsistency! No coins were EVER minted by a "Lith. S.S.R!" Letters by Krause officials to the LNA stated that their policy was "geographical," but as stated in their editorial in World Coin News (Oct. 13, 1981), i.e. "Let's Not Ignore Political Realities," it was more political than "geographical."

From LNA member Victor Dulkis of Maryland, N.Y., comes this letter: "...Colin Bruce & Krause publications donated the Baltic States to the Soviets...Since Lithuania is now listed under the Soviets, I refuse to purchase their book!" We now ask the question: how many other LNA members & friends have boycotted the SCWC for this reason?

Courtney Coffing, editor of Coin World International, wrote us and stated, "We think you now have an alternative to meet the complaints you have been voicing...We are enclosing a book review from our Oct. 20 issue. If you can't change something, you can exercise your prerogative in the market place." Entitled "Schoen Work Available in English," the article stated: (p. 52)

> Now available to collectors of world coins in the United States is an English language illustrated volume totaling 1,424 pages by German numismatist Guenter Schoen.
>
> The book is printed from the 1982 German edition of the Ernst Battenberg Verlag, Munich. It has been translated for Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020. The soft cover volume retails for $13.50; in a hard cover it costs $20.25.
>
> Coins struck since 1900 are listed in the book, representing 300 countries. Listed separately are coins of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.
>
> Each country listed begins at the top of a page, with the coat of arms, the country name in German and French as well as English; capital; monetary divisions; and review of the size, population and history. The bottom of each page in the book carries the name of the country described on that page.

(Continued on next page...)

Boycott....

While Krause officials wouldn't waiver on the listing of the Lith. coins, we held our ground on the forthcoming 4th edition of the Standard Catalog of World Paper Money by Albert Pick. As you recall, we had assurances from Pick, that Krause would not be allowed to change the listing for Lithuania. Apparently, we hit a nerve! For at the ANA I.B.N.S. meeting, Krause officals were quick to announce that there will be no change in the Pick book, and that Lithuania will remain under the "L's" where it belongs.

To protest Krause publications pro-Soviet cataloging policy in the SCWC, write: Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 54945.

Dealer in Quality Rare Coins
Lithuanian & Polish
WRITE:

Karl Stephens, Inc.

Karl Stephens
President

Post Office Box 458 ANA 57209
Temple City, Ca. 91780 213-445-8154

DEALERS! Yes, we accept advertising! A business card insertion (above) is $5, or $25 for the year (save $5). Large size ads: 1/4 page: $7; 1/2 page $12 ; 1 page $20. Try Us! We have an eager and attentive membership. Do you deal in Lithuanian coins, medals, tokens, or banknotes and related items? (i.e. German World War I occupation Ostrubels & Ostmarks) This is the place to advertise your material!

THE KNIGHT Vol. V, No. 3., Issue #27. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Tulsa, OK, EDITOR. Robert J. Douchis, Baltimore, MD., DIRECTOR. Subscription for 6 bimonthly issues a donation of $10 or more (U.S.-Canada), or $20 airmail overseas. Write us for a sample issue! Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD. 21045.

THIS PAGE IS REPRODUCED IN QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTED AT THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONVENTION, DEC. 10-12, 1982. Reg. issue has 8 pages.

The MEMOIRS of PETRAS RIMŠA

(Continued from last issue, as part of a series...)

Along with the foregoing medal, I had envisioned a medal on the liberation of Memel (Klaipėda), which I completed in 1924, though I am not too proud of it, since I see so many defects. The obverse and reverse subjects are nearly the same. In the center of both we see a young man mounted on a steed. On the obverse, there is a Lithuanian girl, garbed in indigenous robes, who hands him a sword, as though saying, "Ride and rescue your country." On the reverse, she hands him a wreath. The background: A scene of the city with the same lighthouse, and an arc with the motto, "What We Have Won--We Shall Learn to Cherish."





The medal's obverse pictures in general the start of the uprising. The reverse: It's victorious conclusion: the joining of the Memelland to Lithuania. Both sides of the medal: flashing rays and edges minutely ornamented.

The liberation of Memel medal was circulated widely. In 1927 there were prepared about 10,000 copies (60 and 35 mm.) from bronze, by stamping. They were distributed in 1928, five years after the union of Klaipėda with Major Lithuania. I have also issued two personal editions of this medal.

Since a considerable length of time elapsed between the conception of this medal and its striking, I have adjusted and modified it somewhat: Let us say, the inscriptions have been changed. At the beginning, the obverse contained the caption suggested by Vydunas: "Save Yourself, and You Will Be Free." The reverse: "Waiting for Ages, We Gained Freedom." All my medals' captions have their own story. They were not easy for me to prepare. Here always my friends assisted. Normally, from several proposals, I would select the most fitting.

[Rimša's third medal was in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Great Congress of Vilnius, in which the Lithuanian people demanded autonomy from Russia. The Communist authorities obviously did not allow J. Rimantas to print Rimša's discussion of this medal.]

From my work on the Vilnius theme, I wish to mention the medal "Gediminas' Dream," based upon the legend of the Iron Wolf, which fascinated me from my youth by its beautiful imagery.

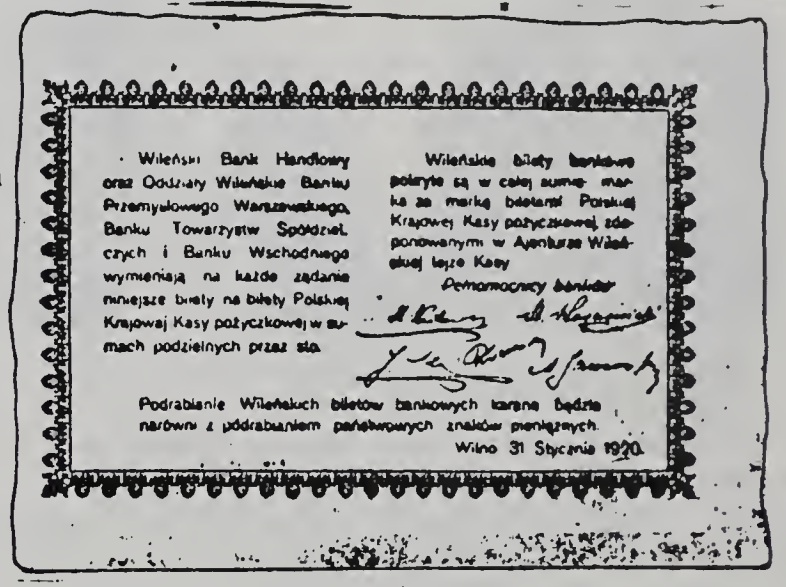
The obverse of the medal verily renews that legend. We see on the Neris River a howling iron wolf of giant stature. The wolf's armour is smartly ornamented. In the background is the city and an immense, fantastic castle of Gediminas with its fortifications and towers, from one of which a flag waves. (Con't on pg.7 ...)

CURRENCY OF THE MONTH, By Frank Passic, Tulsa, OK.

Vilnius 1920 Polish Notes

Date: Stycznia (January) 31, 1920
Sizes: 1 & 5 Marek: 82 x 61 mm.
10 & 20 Marek: 94 x 70 mm.







This month we feature something which is rare, and seldom encountered in currency collections: the Polish exchange notes used during their first occupation of Lithuania's capital city Vilnius (Wilno).

Historical background from the Encyclopedia Lituanica Vol. VI (V-Z), p. 168. "From the start Poland adopted an unfavorable stand towards the restoration of Lithuania...As the German forces were retreating from Lithuania, which they had occupied during WWI, the Red Army seized Vilnius on January 5, 1919. The national army of Lithuania began to push them back and approached Vilnius, but the Polish army advanced at the same time and was the first to enter Vilnius on April 20, 1919. The Lithuanian government, wishing to avoid an armed conflict with Poland, addressed itself to the Allied Powers with a protest against this Polish action. A line of demarcation was drawn up three times. ...But the Poles failed to respect any of these lines. In the summer of 1920 the Russians began an offensive against the Poles and on July 15 occupied Vilnius. The Russians handed over Vilnius to Lithuania on August 25, 1920" As we know, Lithuania and Poland signed a treaty at Suvalkai on October 7, 1920, in which Poland recognized Vilnius as Lithuania's capital. However, 2 days later, Poland invaded Lithuania, capturing Vilnius and 1/3 of Lithuanian territory.

These exchange notes were issued January 31, 1920, during the FIRST Polish occupation of Vilnius, and NOT during the one which occurred in Oct. 1920. Numismatist A. Platbarzdis erroneously mentions these notes as part of the October 1920 occupation (1968 book, p. 60)

OBVERSE DESCRIPTION: The denomination figure appears in the center. On top is stated in Polish, the denomination in words, i.e. "One Polish Mark." On the bottom, the same, "Wilno Bank Banknote." The serial number appears in the lower right corner.

REVERSE DESCRIPTION: The Polish text translates, "Wilno Bank of Trade, or Wilno Branches of the Warsaw Bank of Commerce, and other Warsaw Banks will exchange this note for Polish National Treasury notes in sums divisable by 100. Wilno banknotes are fully equivalent in value mark for mark to notes of the Polish national Treasury. Wilno, 31 Stycznia, 1920."

These banknotes are NOT listed in the Pick catalog; we have notified them of their existence. The notes pictured are part of the Kazimier Wysocki collection. We have no idea as to the "trends" for these! Do any of our other readers have any of these in their collections? If so, please inform us as to the price paid, and year purchased (names will be kept confidential).

One thing is for sure, the question comes up: What country do you catalog these under? Vilnius did not become a part of Poland officially until 1922. "Central Lithuania" came into being when the Poles invaded Vilnius in October of 1920. But these notes were issued in January of 1920. It appears that probably "POLAND/occupied territories will be the listing in the new Pick book. We'll see.

The 1 mark note bears green printing on Orange paper, with black serial No. The 10 mark note has dark blue on pink, with black serial no. The 20 mark has dark purple on orange paper, with black serial no.

The best reference for these notes are found in Catalog of Paper Money Used on Polish Soil 1794-1965, by Tadeusz Jablonski. He assigns the numbers: 1 mark J-2634, 5 mark J-2635, 10 mark J-2636, and 20 mark J-2637.

Special thanks to LNA member Kazimier Wysocki who supplied information to this editor.

4. Dave Alexander Addresses LNA

Our LNA Boston meeting is now history, but the overflow crowd (over 35 persons) at the August 20 event were favored not only with the slide presentation of Lithuanian banknotes , but by an address by our old-time friend and collegue, David T. Alexander, former Coin World International editor, now with the medallic firm of Johnson & Jensen of Danbury, Conn. We now print here the text of Alexander's address to the LNA:



Speaker David T. Alexander, left, is welcomed by LNA President Vincent W. Alones.

"Recently I've been collecting what might almost be called 'honorary citizenships.' Some years ago I became an honorary Slovak; I've been for a long time an honorary Jew, and now I'm an honorary Lithuanian. Precisely what can be derived from these, I do not know, but I find them very enjoyable.

One of the phenomeon we've seen in the hobby in recent years in growth of popular interest is the proliferation of what one of our people rather unwisely called "splinter groups." I thought that terminology was unfortunate; "specialty groups" is more like it.

Those of us who have spent some time with organization work know that the general pattern with this type of thing is to begin with a rush of enthusiasm, to rapidly run out of material, sink, and die. There have been many worthwhile organizations that followed this trend. It is remarkable that the LNA has been a conspicious defier of this trend. Given what might first appear to be a limited objective [i.e. only 14 Republic period coins], the LNA has turned up more hard material for a longer time in the field of numismatics to which it addresses itself,than perhaps any specialty group of its kind. Partly because of the all too brief decades of restored Lithuanian independence, great efforts were made to rectify past neglect. Some good hard material exists in the Lithuanian language, that is now being translated into English at long last. And perhaps a more complete and whole story of Lithuanian coins & banknotes can be told today than is possible in countries of

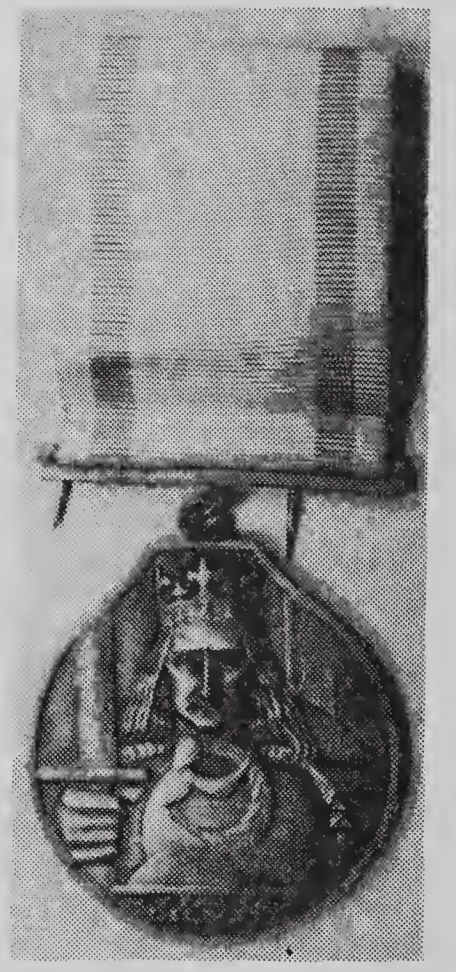
(Continued on next page....)

Order of Vytautas the Great MEDAL

By Vincent Alones & Henry L. Gaidis

The Order of Vytautas the Great was further extended by the establishment of corresponding medals for the two divisions: military and civilian classes.

The medals were awarded for meritorius service to Lithuania, the humanities, and for the common good of all mankind. It was awarded in three grades: 1st class in gold, 2nd class in silver, and 3rd class in bronze.



When the award was given to military recipients for distinguished service in combat, or for exposing himself in a life-danger situation, crossed metallic swords of the same metal were attached to the ribbon.

Those awarded the medal with swords were entitled to these one-time monetary gifts : 3rd class: 50 litas'; 2nd class, 100 litas; 1st class, 200 litas'. Those awarded 1st and 2nd class medals 60 years or older received these annual pensions: 1st class 5 pensions of 150 litas'; 2nd class 50 pensions of 80 litas'

The children of those awarded with the 1st class medal or any medal decorated with swords were entitled to a free education in all government local schools and institutions, also at any school where the government was subsidizing the education.

Those awarded the 1st class medal in certain instances (illness or misfortune) were entitled to a one time grant. Those awarded the 1st and 2nd class medal in civil service jobs, could get their vacation extended one week for every class they had.

The Order of Vytautas the Great MEDAL is an uneven round device, designed by sculptor Domicele Tarabilda, a woman who also designed a Darius-Girėnas medal. The medal is joined to the ribbon by a straight bar suspension clasp, through which is threaded a 34 mm. ribbon of white moire with orange stripes towards each end. The obverse depicts the bust of a crowned Grand Duke Vytautas the Great, holding a raised sword in his right hand. Before him is a Lithuanian maiden bearing a wreath of honor. In the background is a Lithuanian flag with the double-barred cross. The inscription at the bottom reads, "VYTAUTAS DIDYSIS." (Vytautas the Great).

The reverse shows the archaic Vytis (knight) emblem as appeared on Vytautas' coins, and the anniversary dates, 1430-1930.

(Continued on page 6)

far larger size in the same region.

Some years ago I was writing for World Coins Magazine, and we were doing some innovative pioneer work in central European numismatics. It tended to attract an awful amount of "lightening." In that part of the world, as everyone knows, it is very difficult to do a fair job to one, without antagonizing someone else. But in Lithuania's case, possibly because of the historical greatness of the country, with the exception of another large state to the south of it [Poland], Lithuania had very few enemies, except the one to the immediate east of it [Russia], which unfortunately is still there today, and in a particular major coin catalog is now the umbrella under which Lithuania is listed.

There is a bright future for Lithuanian numismatics, and a great opportunity for those who are dilligent researchers. Great quantities of material exist in hiding; as the focus of interest gets more intense, more things turn up. You find one object, five more turn up.

In the case of the Baltic nations, you will find from time to time ads published by the Bank of Foreign Trade of the USSR, announcing in their polite and glib way that you can now buy, for example, Latvian 5 Lati coins in wholesale lots... Don't ask too closely where they came from---You'd not like the answer you'd receive...But it's odd that in recent years there have been no Lithuanian coins reported sold, possibly because of wholesale destruction of these objects a few years earlier [One exception: at the 1967 World's Fair in Montreal, the Soviets sold Lithuanian 1936 minor bronze sets (3 coins)].

In the exiled community around the world, in Europe and in the Americas, there is an increasing interest in the home field, that will turn up more material. Our good collegue , Frank Passic, has done some pioneer work of his own, as you know, the mutilated commemorative coin from the anniversary of the independence of Lithuania, that the Soviets put through the roller mill to deface the portrait of President Smetona. I think that as time goes on, some more such activities will be reported or discovered.

In the area of paper currency, which in the world at large is a booming thing, wonderful discoveries have been made in recent years, up to and including the final commemorative banknote of Lithuania, which Frank had reproduced a few years ago into a color photograph because few of us will ever have the good fortune to own the actual note. This is kind of a testimonial by itself...

In the area of medallic field there is a subject very dear to my heart that doesn't get alot of coverage, in places as remote as Australia, there have been issued in the past 20 years significant Lithuanian numismatic items...The prime minister of Lithuania, Augustinus Voldemaras, who died in exile after the extinguishing of the independence of Lithuania. A few years ago a group of Lithuanian-Australians produced a very handsome medal in memory of

(Continued on page 8...)

Survey Results

Last month we listed the known serial letters for the Ostrubel & Ostmark notes (1916 and 1918). We received several responses, and are pleased to report the addition of several new serial letters.

Below is the list of known serial letters (some notes don't have letters), with the new ones underlined. If you have any different, please send us a photocopy as proof and tell us what letter it is. We'll keep you posted as more come in.

Ostrubel, Posen, 1916

3 rubels: ABCDEF, HKMNPQSTVW
10 rubels: ABCEF (We assume a D exists; does anyone have one?)

Ostmark, Kowno, 1918

1/2 Mark: ABC
1 Mark: ABCDEF
2 Marks: ABC
5 Marks: ABCDEF
20 Marks: ABCDE
50 Marks: ABCDEFG
1000 Marks: A

Remember, the success of the LNA depends upon YOU! We'll be waiting for your letter if you have any different than those stated here. Dealer members: we'd appreciate it if you'd go through your stock and check yours against our listing here.

Ads

FOR SALE: Y-13 1936 10 Litų coin (Vytautas) in XF-AU. $30. V.L.G. Matelis, 1127 Sevilla Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134.

BUY (TRADE or SELL) Livonia, Courland, Riga, Wenden, Revel, Dorpat, Narva medieval coins and medals. Also modern Estonia, Latvia, & Lithuanian coins, medals and notes. Dr. G.L. Baltic. 1012 Fair Oaks Ave. Suite 300, South Pasadena, Calif. 91030.

FOR SALE: A nice grouping of 25 medieval Lithuanian coins for the beginner. Most are common, a few scarcer items are included, including Lithuania grašis: 1535, 1567, 1568, 1608; 3 grašis 1562, 1590. Majority (14) are 3 grašis from the Vilnius mint. 2 plugged. F-EF Average. No returns. $350.00. Paul Rog, 1213 NE Monroe, Minneapolis, Minn. 55413.

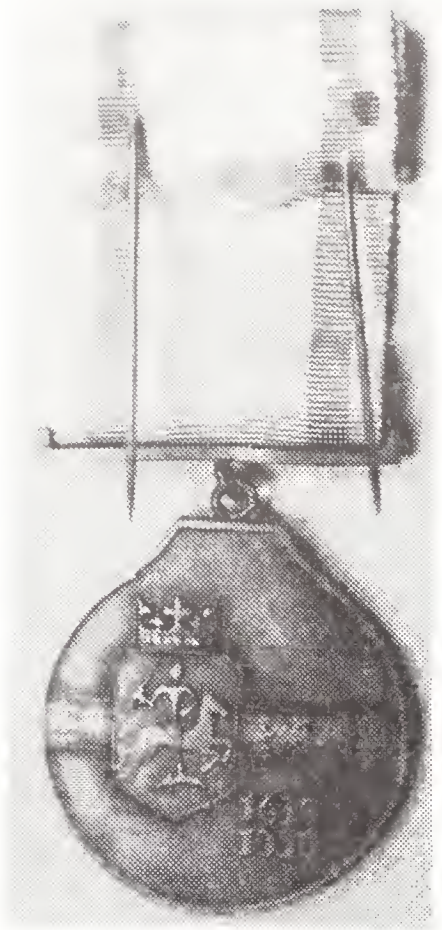
FOR SALE: Vilnius Jewish ambulance/first aid stamps, 10 & 20 kp. set. Dated 1912, shown is horse-drawn cart, and the Lithuanian Vytis. $6. Frank Passic, 1324B E. 60th St. Apt 4-G, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74105.

FOR SALE: Gum-767 (1 leaf) 1585 Lithuanian 6 grašis. F-VF. $475. This is the key collectible coin in the Stephan Bathory series. RARE. Photo $10. I might be willing to trade the above for Tykocin, Olkusz & Vilnius mint pieces, and/or 16th century Poland 6 grašis, except Malbork pieces. Lets make a deal. Paul Rog, 1213 NE Monroe, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

6. ORDER OF VYTAUTAS THE GREAT MEDAL.....

Each medal was accompanied by a certificate, which unfortunately we at the LNA have been unable locate for reproduction. If any of our members can send us a nice photo or photocopy of a certificate for the following Lithuanian orders & decorations, we would be very much helped in our project: Cross of Vytis, Vytautas the Great MEDAL, Order of Gediminas MEDAL, Lifesaving medal. The success of the LNA depends upon YOU!

Photographs in this article courtesy Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. As a reminder, their entire collection of Lith. orders & decorations is on public exhibit at the Museum.



(PAID AD.) GIVE A LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS GIFT!

LITHUANIAN Banknotes For Sale:
P-7 1 Centas 11/16/22 AU $30; P-9 5 Centai 11/16/22 XF $25; P-10 10 Centų 11/16/22 XF $25; P-24 50 Litų 3/31/28 (Basanavičius) VF $75; P-25 100 Litų 3/31/28 Fine $60.

LITHUANIAN Coins For Sale:
Y-1 1 Centas 1925 VF $12; Y-3 10 Centų 1925 VF $10; Y-5 50 Centų F-VF $14; Y-7 2 Litu 1925 F, $13, VF, $20; Y-8 5 Litai 1925 VF, $22, XF, $32; Y-9 1 Centas 1936 XF-AU $10; Y-11 5 Centsi 1936 VF $13; Y-12 5 Litai 1936 (Basanavičius) VF, $13, XF, $20; Y-13 10 Litų 1936 (Vytautas) VF $32, UNC $60; Y-14 10 Litų 1938 Commemorstive (Smetona) VF, $45 XF, $65, UNC, $90.

Other Numismatic Items:
"St. Casimir Pray for Us" (In Lithuanian) religious medalets with loop. Small, pewter.
Chicago aluminum 1930 Vytautas medal with ribbon, $10.
Lithuanian coin holder (for 14 coins), our official LNA holder. $20 each. Specify blue or red.
Museum 1981 15th anniversary wooden token, featuring 1564 10 ducat on reverse. 3 for $1 and a S.A.S.E.
Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai (1953) by Jonas Karys. Out of print, only a few left. $12.
Numizmatika (1970) by Jonas Karys. Hard Cover, 1 left! $25.
Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics by Alexander Račkus. (1965). This book has become notorious for its lack of scholarship, and is a classic in itself. Bi-lingual. Hard cover. $20. Only a few left.

OTHER ITEMS
Beautiful colorful reproduction of the painting "The Battle of Grunwald (Tannenberg) by J. Matejko, featuring Vytautas the Great in the center. These were printed in Germany years ago, and we got the last of them. Size: 15" x 9 1/2" Excellent for your living room wall! $10 each. Supply Limited!
Lithuanian flags: 3' x 5' nylon, $25; cotton, $22. Desk flag with stand, $3.00
Lietuva/Vytis license plate, $6.
LITHUANIA license plate frame, $6.
"I Love Lithuanians" bumper sticker, $2.50
Vytis emblem T-shirts (real nice, have different color neck & sleeve border) Adult sizes: $7; Childrens sizes $5 Blue, Beige, or Green. Specify.

BOOKS
Lithuanian-English Dictionary (Hard-cover) $13.
English-Lithuanian Dictionary (Hard-cover) $13.
Lithuanian Cookery, By I. Sinkevičius $10 (cookbook)
Popular Lithuanian Recipes, by J. Gauzvardis, $6.
Lithuania--700 Years, by A. Gerutis, ed. 458 pgs. $15.00
Postage Stamps of Lithuania. Hard Cover $18.
Directory of Estonian, Latvian, & Lithuanian artists, and organizations in Illinois. $2.00 Lots of addresses.
We also have Lithuanian amber, amber jewelry, coin jewelry, mugs, Encyclopedia Lituanica 6 Volume set, postage stamps, key chains, letter openers. Write for a copy of the latest Museum Review for prices.

BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE 4012 Archer Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60632. (312) 847-2441.

(PAID AD) WHAT DOES THAT COLLECTOR IN YOUR LIFE NEED?

1936 5 litai...

struck two types of preliminary patterns, before sending the finalized dies to Kaunas. The first pattern, known as LNA-12a (KM-Pn1), bears a plain edge and a rotated reverse. It bears the design that was used in circulation. Apparently officials were pleased with the design, for we theorize that they then struck this test strike (the one we are reporting here) on a normal, regular lettered-edge planchet, but rotated the reverse to show it to be a sample. (It has a wire-rim).

The second pattern, which was probably made first, is the rejected "J. ZIKARAS" below the bust of Basanavičius (KM-Pn2)

We have adjusted our numerical cataloging of this coin as follows, using our own LNA numbers: LNA-12, regular circulation coin; LNA-12a (KM-Pn1) plain edge, rotated reverse pattern; LNA-12b (new discovery). Lettered edge, rotated reverse test strike; LNA-12c (KM-Pn2) plain edge, designers name "J. ZIKARAS" below bust, reverse is not rotated.

This discovery is not the first in the past several months. Last year a special strike proof-like example of the Y-7 1925 5 litai coin surfaced on the market. We theorize that this was part of a presentation set, although this has not yet been confirmed.

News

Congratulations to LNA charter member John Glynn, of London, England, whose article "OB-OST Notes Used in Lithuania," received a 2nd place literary award from the Society of Paper Money Collectors. John's article appeared in that society's Journal, May-June 1981 issue, pp. 119-123.

We read in the numismatic press that the Polish communist government is going to issue gold bullion "Pontiffs", with the bust of Pope John Paul II! Unfortunately, the Polish people will not be allowed to purchase these. They will only be sold abroad!

For the benefit of new members, our mailing list is never released. Along the same vein, the identities of survey respondents is not revealed, either. The Director maintains the membership list and compiles survey results. Replies to surveys are destroyed after compiling.

When ordering from our advertisers, please mention that you saw the ad in The Knight.

Want ads are a FREE service to LNA members! If you have things for sale, list them here!



ART EXHIBIT

WORKS OF

PETRAS RIMŠA

APRIL 27 - MAY 6, 1936

SHERMAN HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS





Top: Cover of official program of Rimša's Chicago tour. Center: "Gediminas' Dream" reverse. Bottom: "Unijos Nori" (Union Desired) postcard (reduced).

(Continued from page 2...) RIMŠA

The sparkling sun beams overhead, and the birds are soaring. Below we see a cartouche bearing the Lithuanian Vytis. From him, oak branches with their leaves and acorns encircle the entire scene. In the background in the upperpart an arc, bearing stylized script, reminiscent of the middle ages, proclaims "VILNIUS 1323 (the year the city was founded)". Beneath the iron wolf's paws we read, "This Was Gediminas' Dream."

On the other hand, the reverse [pictured on the left] portrays Lithuania's capital in 1920, when Pilsudski's vandals occupied it, breaking the agreement of Suvalkai. Replacing the iron wolf we see here a hog with the Polish confederation's emblem on its snout and a ribbon about its neck. It is covered with various Polish decorations, among them "Poland Restored," and the Eagle hangs below its throat. The hog is furiously tearing at the flag waving on the tower of Gediminas' castle. The castle itself, compared to that on the obverse, appears rather miserable. Above we can see the night's symbol: the moon, obscured by clouds below. Further down, a cartouche with the arms of Vilnius (St. Christopher). From this a thistle's branches creep around, with blossoms at the ends. In the background field appears the inscription "VILNIUS 1920," and under the paws of the hog. "This was NOT Gediminas' Dream!"

"Gediminas' Dream" medal was, I believe, a success. It's judgment was consistent and logical, it is artistically complete. And no one subscribed to this medal. I issued only a few (in the teens). [Note: one of these was owned by Dr. Alexander Račkus and is now part of the Balzekas museum collection.]

[At this point, omitted are several medals in Rimša's discussion. They are: "Union Desired," "Union and War," and "Let Us Reconquer Vilnius!" All of these have been previously pictured in The Knight. Omitted next is the religious Pope's medal, and the medal issued in honor of Vladas Putvys, organizer of the Lithuanian National Guard.]

Obviously, the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas the Great could not come about without my medal. I created it in 1929-1930. The medal was issued in five sizes (the original was 35 centimeters). Of all my medals, this was distributed in the largest number of copies (over 17,000). [Notice here how the Communists did not permit Rimantas to include Rimša's discussion of his most well-known work. This is because it glorifies Vytautas, who conquered much of Russia, and a map on the reverse proves it...]

How I produce me medals may be of interest to some, since earlier, many have inquired of me. Now, how? I must say that I mould

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Alexander....

Voldemaras, in which maybe 120 specimens are known; one never sees them. The obverse design appeared in Coin World when it came out, with ordering instructions that are far obsolete.

From the grand age of Lithuanian medallic work, comes the work of Petras Rimša, who is widely known today among collectors because of the publication The Knight. Rarely do they come on the market. The Vytautas the Great medal we have had once in my experience with Johnson & Jensen; it was snapped up almost immediately. And medals of the Lithuanian philatelic organizations around the country and in Canada from time to time appear and create a great deal of spotlight interest.

Again, as a country which is fairly well documented, and more so, it is still surprising that there are more discoveries to be made, and these very exciting new things turning up. It is our hope that your organization will continue, and continue to publish. We'd be happy to assist in any way we can, and speaking as the owner of the only (to my knowlege) printed cotton Lithuanian flag in Danbury, Conn., I'm happy to say I was able to be with you today."

* * *

We hope you have enjoyed Dave's address to the LNA. Our meeting attracted alot of publicity, including a photo in The Numismatist, October issue. Note: Regarding Dave's last sentence, it is a known fact that Mr. Alexander has unfurled flags of various European nations on his front porch in full public display, on each of these nation's respective independence days. This is written for those of you who happen to be in the Danbury, CT. area next February 16, and happen to see a Lithuanian flag flying in the breeze...

ads...

FOR SALE: Petras Rimša postcard "Unijos Nori" (Union Desired). Very anti-Polish and satirical. Some brown spots. Design similar to medal. $12. Also: 1932 "Vilniaus Pasas" (Vilnius Passport) nos. 1664 (large) & 217736 (small) set. Issued to raise money for the Iron Fund for Vilnius (V.G.F.). Contains photo of Poles signing treaty at Suvalkai. Numerous pages tp place stamps. Large passport signed by officials. Small one has scenes of Vilnius. Both contain rules & history of the Iron Fund. $20. Frank Passic, 1324-B E. 60th St. #4-G, Tulsa, OK 74105.

WANTED: The following Lith. banknotes: P-4 50 centų, P-5 1 litas, P-6 5 litai; P-12 50 centų, P-15, 16, 17 5 litai; P-19 50 litų, P-22 1,000 litų. Val Matelis, 1127 Sevilla Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134.

TWO HOARDS IN THE VILNIUS REGION

By V.L.G. Matelis

[The following is based on "The Coin Hoards of Aluona-Škleriai, and Krūminiai," by Povilas Karazija (1887-1955). We have this numismatic classic translated and will be presenting it as a book in serial form sometime in the future, but for now this summary by Val will wet your appetite as to what is in store].

It was a fairly cold day in October 1935, and Karolis Verseckas, a 16 year old hirling of Stasys Kairveičius, a farmer in the community of Krūminiai, was hoeing potatoes lackadasically in a patch near the homestead. His boss walked over to him and chided him, "Put more spirit into your digging, Karolis and you may justify your name (in Lithuanian, "Karalius" means king); who knows , you may dig up some fortune hidden by a long-gone king, and clear a million!"

Spurred on by this reprimand, Karolis began to dig deeper, and soon the hill of potatoes grew larger in his row. Then, his hoe touched on a softer stretch of ground, and went down a half-meter. It struck something solid, unlike a potatoe. Using his spade, he pried around and came up with a pot of dark clay, which seemed to cover another vessel, covered with a kind of pitch. It was nothing like he had ever seen. He struck it sharply with his spade, and it cracked, spilling forth a number of tiny metal pieces.

Had he truly found a king's ransom?! Was this indeed a discovery that would change his life, as his supervisor had so recently suggested? He became frightened. He scooped up the coins, small and thin, glanced around to see if anyone was watching, and ran! He didn't come back to work that day and for several more. He began showing the coins to his neighbors. Some of them laughed at him; some took a specimen, wondering what they were---perhaps just pieces of tin? He even went to the neighboring village center, Mišt-ūnai, but found none to encourage him. Finally, he took the few pieces he had left and threw them away! This occurred in Valkininkai county, not too far from Vilnius.

A local Lithuanian teacher came into possession of some of these coins, and brought them into Vilnius , where he showed them to Paul Karazija, a numismatist curator in the museum there. Within 2 weeks, Karazija traveled to Valkininkai and began inquiring about the discovery. No one there had heard of it. He proceeded to Miškūnai village, close to Krūminiai, and there, all the locals knew of the incident. Almost all considered the cache worthless! Only one or two reasoned that they might be old Lithuanian coins. Supplied with funds by his museum, he offered to pay a bounty for all coins brought to him, and in this way, recovered about 200 of them. Some had been struck with a hatchet, or bent, but not discarded, as the finder himself had done.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE...